

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Published by Ralph F. Cummings, Box 75, Fisherville, Mass., U. S. A.

Price \$1.00 per year or ten cents a copy.

Ad. rates—1c per word. 25c per inch (about 30 words). Quarter page \$1.00, Half page \$1.75, Full page \$3.00. Display adverts., 50c per inch. Four consecutive insertions for the price of three.

Vol. 10

September 1941

No. 109

OLD BOYS' MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

The Beeton Publications

By Frank Jay

(October 21, 1916)

Sent in by Henry Steele

The earliest attempt at supplying special literature for boys appears to have been the "Youths' Instructor," which, starting so far back as the reign of George the Third, namely, in 1817 published successively no fewer than thirty-nine volumes, the last appearing in 1855. It was issued in several series, and its title was altered in 1838 to the "Youths' Magazine or Evangelical Miscellany." It was published in monthly parts, and each year was made into a volume. Each part consisted of thirty-six pages, size $4\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ in. The copies in my possession were printed by Teape and Son, Tower Hill, London. The contents consist of descriptive sketches of foreign countries, short essays, conversations on books, poetry, scientific matter, and a steel-plate illustration of churches, scenery, etc., prefaces each number. The general tone of the reading matter is of a religious character.

Next was the "Youths' Miscellany or Monthly Visitor," which, beginning in 1823, only ran as far as the third volume.

Then came the "Young Man's Companion or Youths' Instructor." All these were 12mo. magazines. In 1832 appeared the "Boys' and Girls' Penny Magazine," the first boys book published at what is now the recognized

price, but of which information is very scanty, there being only three odd numbers, 9, 17, 18, in the library of the British Museum. In 1853 the "Young Man's Monthly Magazine" appeared, but only completed one volume. The next was the "Boys' Own Journal and Youths' Miscellany," which first came out in 1856, but after the appearance of the September number in 1857 it was incorporated with Beeton's "Boys' Own Magazine."

The "Boys' Own Magazine"

In 1854 Samuel Orchard Beeton produced and published, in monthly installments, the "Boys' Own Magazine." Each part consisted of thirty-two pages, the size of sheets being $4\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ in., and was issued in colored paper wrappers, and the twelve months' parts were bound up and published in yearly volumes, the series comprising eight volumes in all.

Mr. Beeton (who by the way had previously been in business as a publisher, one of his first publications being Mrs. Beecher Stowe's world-famed "Uncle Tom's Cabin," written in 1852, which Mr. Beeton was the first to introduce to this country) was the first man to make writing for boys a separate branch of the literary profession, and in the "Boys' Own Magazine" he gave full play to his aspirations. He introduced men of education and refinement to write for boys magazines, and a comparison of the contents of the eight volumes will prove he was right in his judgment. Vol. I contains a series of biographies of poor boys who became great men, starting with the printer boy, Benjamin Franklin, and includ-

ing Christopher Columbus, Captain Cook, Sir Humphrey Davy, Oliver Goldsmith, and James Watt. Descriptive sketches of Mexico, which at the period was occupying a large amount of public interest, miscellaneous articles on zoological subjects, famous cities and places, all of which were illustrated, but the greatest gem is the "Life of a Dog" by Thomas Miller, illustrated by Andrew Wain, who also illustrates some of the zoological subjects.

In Vol. 2 Thomas Miller contributes "Forest, Field, and Fen," and Edgar Poe the "Gold Beetle." In vol. 3 appear the "World of Insects," by M. S. R. (generally thought to be the Rev. J. G. Wood), "Rural Sports," by Thomas Miller, "Pym's Narrative." In vol. 4 appear the "Real Robinson Crusoe" (author not given), illustrated narrative of the Crusades, the "Fife and Drum, or He Would be a Soldier," by Captain Lascelles Wraxall, "Steven and His Dog," the "Silver Mine," and the "Hired Hangman," by F. Gerstacker, who also contributes a "Bear Hunt in the Western Mountains," the "Fat Widow," and "The Planter," whilst the editor contributes "A Fight at Our School" in Vol. 5. Vol. 6 contains the "Adventures of a Cat through her nine lives," admirably illustrated by Andrew Wain, and a series of splendid articles entitled "Manly Exercises." Vol. 7, "How I Won My Spurs, or, a Boy's Adventures in the Barons' War," by J. G. Edgar, "Normans and Saxons, or Stories of the Conquest," by Edgar De Roos, the "Wreck of the Pirate," by F. Gerstacker, "The Reminiscences of a Raven," by the author of "Adventures of a Cat." In Vol. 8, 1862, appears the "Sorrows of the Senses," "Natural History" by James Greenwood, author of the "Wild Sports of the World," the "Hostelry" or "Four Tales Told in a Forest" by F. Gerstacker. The remainder of the volumes are made up with shorter stories, essays, and poems. The illustrations are all good, and the general tone of the publication is of a high order.

Some Famous Contributors

In 1863 the magazine was in a new series, being enlarged and illustrated by separate plates on toned paper. The price was increased from 2d to 6d per month. The opening chapters

of a grand historical romance by J. G. Edgar appeared entitled "Cressy and Poitiers," or the Story of the Black Prince's Page. This romance is valuable as showing the manners and customs of the times in England, and is now deservedly included in Everyman's Library. A second serial entitled "Reuben Davidges: Seventeen years and four month among the Dyaks of Borneo," by James Greenwood, delighted those who had a taste for adventures in strange lands. Combined with these features were natural history papers by the Rev. J. G. Wood, under the general heading of "The Zoological Gardens," which ran continuously until 1866. In 1864 W. H. G. Kingston (who had discontinued his "Magazine for Boys" in 1863) wrote one of his tales of adventure by land and sea, for which he was famous. This was "The Gentlemen Adventurers," or "Antony Waymouth" which ran throughout the year. J. G. Edgar followed up his previous successful stories with another of equal power entitled "Runnymede and Lincoln Fair: A Story of the Great Charter." High hopes were entertained by both author and editor that a sequence of these historical romances would be continued in subsequent volumes of the "Boy's Own Magazine" but alas! it was not to be. Death intervened, and the reading public was poorer in consequence.

However, in Francis Davenant, a young London barrister, Mr. Beeton found a man worthy to walk in the deceased author's footsteps. In the volume for 1865 there appears, therefore, the first fruits of his pen in the department of literature. It was entitled "Hubert Ellis, a story of King Richard's Days the Second." It will be noticed readily that there is something out of place in the sub-title: yet notwithstanding this title appears all through the volume for 1865. It was altered, however, to A Story of King Richard the Second's Days, when the romance was published in book form. Francis Davenant contributed "Edward Claydon: a story of the days of Agincourt," and Ralph de Walden to the two succeeding volumes of the magazine. Thereafter the historical romance seems to have been abolished in favor of adventure tales, for a strong competition in boys

papers was now springing up, and Beeton's Boys' Own Magazine was losing favor with its readers. Several changes were made in the magazine to induce an increased circulation among others, the divisions of the volumes into two half-year volumes is departed from with Volume 9, 1868. Instead we find that instalments of a separately-paged work is given away each month with title pages and indices for binding into different volumes at the end of the year. In this way the "World's Explorers," a finely illustrated volume of 384 pp.—forms part of "Beeton's Annual" for 1868—and other works by James Greenwood, followed in due course, but notwithstanding all efforts to keep the magazine afloat were fruitless, and tho it lingered on to 1874, its production was not profitable, more varied entertainment was given in "The Boys of England" class of journal, so Beeton's magazine ceased to exist.

I have in my library the eight volumes forming the first series of the magazine, but only some odd volumes of the second and enlarged series, and I am indebted to Mr. John Steward, Sheldestone, Glasgow, for much of the information concerning the same.

A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION

By Seajay

The "Round-Up" for August contained a righteous wail of horror over the assumption that many of our members, caught in a rip-tide of love mush, are going down for the third and last time. Let "Anonymous Contributor" take heart. This thrashing about of Brothers Pitcher, Cummings, and Bragin in a caldron of heart-throbs, sighs, love and tears, merely represents their feverish search for just one more counterpart of the famous tale entitled: "Nellie, the Beautiful Cloak Model."

In the first chapter the villain tied Nellie to the railroad track. In the second chapter he beat her up. In the third, he threw her in front of a buzz-saw. In the climax of the last chapter he asks: "Nellie, WHY don't you trust me?" All of which strongly savors of the gentle art practiced by latter-day politicians in trying to explain away one's taxes. Brothers, may

you find what you seek and convalesce quickly.

HERO TO TWO GENERATIONS OF BOYS

Who was Frank Merriwell? Ask any youngster on the street, and you will probably get a blank stare. Ask any young man in uniform and you'll ask in vain. But try the executives of a big firm, step into the board meeting of bank directors, ask army and air ministry chiefs. Drawn, serious faces will relax, eyes will warm in memory and "Bless my soul, Frank Merriwell; yes, yes," will tell you he is an old friend well-loved.

There is not a man over 35 who never heard of him, for Frank Merriwell was a hero to at least two generations of boys back at the beginning of the century. The serious business of living caught up to those boys finally, turned them into men, and latter into taxpayers and sober citizens.

Yet faces still kindle at that name which swiftly turns back the clock, and your most frozen-blooded citizen sees himself again lying in the hay loft with a smuggled Tip Top Weekly, following Frank and his cronies thru breathless adventure. Not one escapes this magic rejuvenation of remembering, remembering slipping the latest Tip Top under his shirt and sauntering past the eyes of the family; remembering hot nights buried under the bedclothes with a flashlight, reading on and on, sweat trickling down his face, the air so thick it could nearly support the sheets over-head unaided.

There was nothing immoral in those books to warrant the surreptitious reading but nickel publications were not rated "improving" by most parents. Yet every week for close to 20 years something like 200,000 boys plunked down their half dimes for a Merriwell adventure.

Ex-readers, now grown up, may remember the smaller row of type on each book's cover, "By Burt L. Standish." The real name of the author is William George Patten, now 74 years old and still vigorously writing. He has just produced another book with Frank Merriwell as a grown man.

Perhaps Patten's most obvious strength is an ability to change with

the times. Patten is very much alive to 1941, and wastes no moments pinning for "the good old days."

Now, though in the late afternoon of his life, he still dreams he may make something yet of "real literary merit." Since he wrote his Merriwell stories as pot boilers, he is unable to regard them as his most enduring work.

"I could never do another," he says. "The underlying motives and ideals of those stories are as true today as when I wrote them. The language of Frank and his friends may sound odd to us now, but in those days that is almost exactly how boys spoke, though I will admit Frank, being a superior boy, had to be given more elegant speech. Boys, like human nature, don't change underneath, however. Yet I say I could never pick up the Merriwell thread again. Those stories belong to a part of my life that is behind me; I couldn't go back."

"Did I love Merriwell?" he has said. "Not at first. Those early stories were more of a joke to me than anything else. But when it got so that a half a million kids were reading him every week—and I think there were that many, when you stop to think how the stories were lent from hand to hand—I began to realize that I had about the biggest chance to influence the youth of this country that any man ever had. And when you get the messiah complex, you're lost. Yes, I loved him. And I loved him because no boy, if he followed in his tracks, ever did anything that he need be ashamed of."

—Clipping from Star Weekly, of Toronto, Canada. Sent in by George Barton.

NOVELNUT NONSENSE

A POLL OF "ROUND-UPS" follows conducted by Brother French, reveals that 85% of our members, including himself, have gray hair. As is understood and recognized, that "the good die young," we feel that there is something rotten in Denmark.

FOR SALE: My breechclout. Size 38. Only spot to show wear is the seat. Price 25 cts. Reason: I need the money. Write Bro. Pitzer. (Adv.)

HOLIDAY CASUALTY: Brother Kurtz, who carelessly celebrated July

4th by sitting down on a cannon-cracker, is said to be again taking an interest in food. Homer salvaged seven buttons from his pants.

* AS BRO. HOLMES relates the incident, he was innocently signaling a motor-bus to stop. An elderly spinster insists that he was outraging her sense of propriety by wig-wagging at her. She therefore proceeded to do some fancy scratching on Howard's nose. While we place ourselves on record as implicitly believing our Brother, we warn our subscribers against making passes at vestal virgins as it may confuse the bus-driver. Have that old trout jailed, Howard.

WE ARE SADDENED to report that of the 18 seats provided by the management at Bro. McIntyre's Temperance Lecture, only three were occupied, two of which were taken by Brothers Bill Burns and Austin, who had mistakenly understood that cheese sandwiches would be free. The third settee was occupied by a little guy who looked like somebody's uncle, and was later identified as Bro. Jonas, who supposed that he was to witness a burlesque show. However, he it said that the slides showing the effect of alcohol effects, explained Bro. McIntyre, produced by rubbing this vile drug into the region of their caudal appendages, were such as, we hope, produced a lasting impression on the audience. The old mare simply stood on her head, while the bob-cat appeared to be spitting brimstone and small-pox. We dislike to record the disappearance of the stuffed snake with which the lecture was illustrated. It was located at a neighboring loan-shop where it had been hocked for two bits. We reserve comment.

IT IS RUMORED that Bro. Couch's glorious red beard could now make a comfortable double mattress.

WILL BOB please explain? While giving a demonstration of his athletic abilities, even at his ripe age of 65, it appears that Bro. Frye, after a few graceful preliminary hops, blithely leaped into the air and came down in a superb split, to the great delight of Mary Ann Gash and Miss Arethusa McPhutt. And found it impossible to arise. With a Round-Up ball-bearer fore and aft, he was toted off to our Hospital, head down, where Dr. Leit-head finally unglued him. What we

wish Bob to explain is how come the McPhutt into the picture

NOTICE: Ownership of the roll of \$10.00 for which all of our members put in a claim after it had been posted as found in our beer-parlor, was proven by the Club's scrub-woman.

BROTHERS: We are endowed with five senses. We acquire the 6th with age. It is common-sense. The 7th sense, NONSENSE, has no place in the lives of serious-minded folks, and we wonder if it is not about time to "let the cat die," because in retrospect, our Colyum has, to our notion, all the looks, the fire, and the dash of a sack of flour. Anticipating an early discharge, and to beat the rap, we are taking an advanced course in shoe-shining.

(Sig.) JOHN W. JACKASS.

CONCERNING OLD AUTHORS

Dear Readers of the Round-Up: It's been a long time since I have communicated anything directly to you thru the medium of a letter. I enjoy reading the R-U a very great deal. I've been very busy for several months in my spare time, trying to get biographical data for my writing and compilation of articles concerning famous fiction writers of the past.

I have a few names of authors who used to contribute extensively to the early publications—N. Y. Weekly, Ledger, Family Story Paper, and many others—and who were well-known from the 1850s to 1900, but of whom the Library of Congress can find nothing about. Often in old publications sketches are sometimes found about authors. People also sometimes keep scrapbooks, clippings, concerning old popular authors.

If any reader knows anything about the authors whose names are listed below, I should appreciate having data concerning them. Please reply, if you find anything, as fully as possible, and for reward a little volume (size of Readers' Digest), containing sketch of author, and portrait, (if I can obtain one), and excerpts from stories by the author you give me data about, (and also of other authors in the same volume), will be sent you when it is published. Sources of all help given me will be acknowledged in the volume.

The names of these authors are: Margaret Blount, Jennie Davis Burton, John Donloe Carter, Harry Dantforth, Mrs. R. B. Edson, Ad. H. Gibson, R. B. Hill, Harriet Irving, Emma Garrison Jones, Juan Lewis, Effie Adelaide Rowlands.

Very sincerely,
Hermon Pitcher, Lake City, Fla.

REMEMBER WHEN

By H. L. (Buck) Wilson

Remember when
Wild West was the idol
Of boys
And men
With fearless friends
He took his stand
And his deeds were known
Throughout the land

Remember when
With the rest of the gang
He fought with the Indian
Tooth and fang
And he rode into danger
Without a fear
Even though he knew
That death may be near

Remember when
With the aid of his friend
That faithful follower
Old Cheyenne
The Prince of the Saddle
Rode to fame
And gained for himself
That wide known name

Champion deadshot
Of the west
Against all comers
He took the test
And won over odds
Of all types of men
Wild West was the deadshot
Remember when?

The rest of the party
Consisted of these
Jim Dart, Wing Wah,
Anna, Louise
Hop Wah too
Played a definite part
And tricked his way
Into our heart

And Aretta so full
Of vim and zest
A golden girl
Of the golden west

And Spitfires praise
With Aretta's we sing
For these were the pride
Of the Lasso King

Ah, those were the days
When all was true
Men were bold
And the west was new
A sure fast draw
A shot well slung
A nick-tie party
An outlaw hung

But—They've ridden ahead now
And left us behind
And we dream
By the fireside's glow
That we'll meet them again
At the end of the trail

If God will decree it so
Prince of the Saddle
And Deadshot too
The memories, my friends,
Are left to you
Remember when?

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

New York Ledger, Vol. 25, No. 6, April 3rd, 1869, had an article of interest "Red Knife, or Kit Carson's Last Trail," by Leon Lewis, and in Brave and Bold, No. 120, April 8th, 1905, "The Electric Man in the Enchanted Valley, or the Two Wonderful Adventures of Two Boy Inventors," by the author of the "Wreck of the Glaucus."

Joseph K. Gantner says he wrote to Street and Smith about the reprinting of the Old Nick Carters, etc. but their answer was not encouraging. Why not others write, if so, it may make an impression.

Eddie Smart says he was surprised to read in some of the back numbers of the Roundup, that Harry Enton (Cohen) wrote some of the first numbers of Frank Reade. He also read of a Jack Harkaway story appearing in the "Comfort" magazine, which was published by the Gannett Publishing Co., of Augusta, Maine. The Comfort is still published but by Vickery and Hill Pub. Co., Augusta, Maine. Gannett was a millionaire publisher. This same publisher used to publish 5 or 6 other magazine, and Wm. J. Benners of Philadelphia used

to be the editor of them.

Who has Nelson Lee Library Nos. 542 to 549 to sell or swap, write ye editor of Roundup.

Wm. H. Gander was born Sept. 29th 1898, same year as ye president of H. H. Bro., who was born January 4th, 1898. Bill says it's hard to get any of the American magazines of today such as dime Comic books, True Story, or any of the Detective Magazines, etc.

Bill Burns has a fine article coming out in the August and September 1941 Novel Mart, Published by Robert Burns, 17 So. Smallwood St., Baltimore, Md. Send 5c for a copy.

Prof. Walter Loban of Northwestern University, had an article in a recent paper, that our old novels "Deadwood Dick," etc., have crashed into Literature. If it keeps on, we'll have all the professors, ministers, and all whooping up the dime novel hobby. Loban said, the novels of yore are coming into their own.

We hear that the "American Boy" has gone up the spout. Too bad, it was founded by William C. Sprague. Seems the American Boy absorbed both St. Nicholas and Youths Companion. It seems impossible that this magazine should fold up with 300,000 subscribers. If some one could only take up where the publishers left off, ought to make a go of it.

MEMBERS OF THE H. H. BRO. for 1941

Nos.

4. J. Edward Leithead, 5109 Cedar Ave., Phila., Pa.
8. L. Morgan, 3018-25th St., N. E. Washington, D. C.
40. P. C. Maroske, 4133—57th St., Woodside, L. I., N. Y.
144. Stanley A. Pachon, R. F. D. 1, Wind Gap, Pa. (New member)
145. Harry B. McConnell, Cadiz, O. (an old member)

Dime Novel Catalogue. Illustrated. Free for stamped envelope. R. Braggin, 1525 W. 12th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Ranch Romance Magazine. Nothing like it, pure western stories that hit the spot, on sale everywhere.

Vol. 20, of Golden Days, complete yearly run of 52 issues (1899) bound in monthly parts by the publisher. Excellent condition. Will swap for other old story papers or for colored novels. W. M. Burns, 15 Cottage St., Rockland, Maine.

Want Vanity Fair (pub. in England by Joseph Parks), Nos. 1 to 12. State price or exchange wanted. Wm. R. Gander, Box 60, Transcona, Man., Canada.

Wanted— Buffalo Bill Stories No. 124. What do you want. Cash or swap. L. Morgan, 3018-25th Street, N. E., Washington, D. C.

Want—"Two Ways of Becoming a Hunter," by Harry Castleman. Will give cash or trade. Harry B. McConnell, Cadiz, Ohio.

Trade Leisure Hours Library No. 252 (Vol. III, 1898) David Copperfield by Dickens, for other Dime Novels, preferably detective. What will you offer? H. W. Miller, Lawrence, Kans.

WANTED AT ALL TIMES

EARLY DIME NOVELS

EARLY AMERICAN FICTION

AMERICANA IN GENERAL

PROMPT PAYMENT ALWAYS

Edward Morrill & Son

144 Kingston Street
Boston, Massachusetts

RECKLESS RALPH'S TWENTY-FIVE CENT NOVEL LIBRARY

- No. 1. The Great Romances, by George H. Cordier
- No. 2. Prison Delivery, by Emmett Dalton, and the Deadwood Dicks. (Double Number)
- No. 3. A Voyage to California Sixty-Five Years Ago, by George H. Cordier
- No. 4. The Great Five Cent Wide Awake Library, by George H. Cordier.

Price 25c Each

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.

FOR SALE

LOTS OF DUPLICATES

New Nick Carter Weekly, Nos. 343 to 819 at \$1.00 each

Might and Main, Nos. 2 to 80 at \$1.00 each

Buffalo Bill Stories, Nos. 100 to 591 at \$1.00 each

Brave and Bold, Nos. 28 to 400 at \$1.00 each, 401 to 429 at 50c each

Tip Top Weekly, Nos. 142 to 300 at \$1.00 each, 301 to 400 at 50c each, 401 to 850 at 25c each

New Tip Top Weekly, Nos. 1 to 50 at 50c each, 51 to 136 at 25c each

New Buffalo Bill Weekly, Nos. 1 to 100 at 50c each, 101 to 364 at 25c each

Nick Carter Stories, Nos. 1 to 50 at 50c each, 51 to 160 at 25c each

All Sports Library, Nos. 1 to 38 at \$1.00 each, 39 to 52 at 25c each

Paul Jones Weekly, Nos. 2 to 18 at \$2.00 each, very rare, the lot \$30.00

Bowery Boy Weekly, No. 2 to 100 at \$1.00 each

Young Rough Rider, Nos. 4 to 71 at \$1.25 each, 75 up at \$1.00 each

Motor Stories, Nos. 17 to 31 at 25c each

Diamond Dick Jr. Weekly, No. 701 to 733 and odds up to 758 at 60c each.

Red Raven, very fine, Nos. 3 to 37 at \$1.25 each.

Lots of nos. above have been sold, send, as we may have nos. you want.

Seaside Library (Pocket edition), Nos. 4 9 46 184 191 228 263 279 356 388 390
430 486 575 586 590 617 632 639 796 at 15c each

Munros Library, Nos. 72 127 175 245 379 at 15c each

Mr. Frank Merriwell, new book, \$1.90

What do you need in Work and Win, Fame and Fortune, Pluck and Luck, Wild West, Liberty Boys of 76, Secret Service, Beadles Dime and Half Dime Libraries, Beadles Weekly, Banner Weekly, Saturday Journal, etc.?

Send your want lists.

All orders sent prepaid and insured.

Valley Book Co., Fisherville, Mass.
